

ADOLF BUSCH
The Life of an Honest Musician

TULLY POTTER



**TOCCATA
PRESS**

CONTENTS

Volume One: 1891–1939

Dedication	14
Introduction	17
Acknowledgements	23
I. The Busch Family	33
II. The Prodigy	45
III. The Cologne Conservatory	57
IV. The Young Virtuoso	101
V. The Vienna Years	145
VI. Berlin and Busoni	241
VII. The Darmstadt Days	321
VIII. Burgeoning in Basel	393
IX. The Break	481
X. Busch the Man	567
XI. The Chamber Players	593
XII. The Lucerne Festival	659

Volume Two: 1939–52

XIII. The New World	703
XIV. Between Two Continents	797
XV. The Marlboro School of Music	849

Appendices

1. Busch and the Violin	897
2. Repertoire and Taste	931
3. Busch as Interpreter: Comments on his Performances	949
4. Busch the Teacher	997
5. Busch and the Viola	1015
6. Six Tributes	1021
I. Joseph Szigeti on Adolf Busch	1021

II.	Max Strub on Adolf Busch	1025
III.	A Letter from a Member of the Busch Little Symphony	1028
IV.	Edith Eisler: 'Recollections of Adolf Busch'	1031
V.	Yehudi Menuhin: 'Fritz and Adolf Busch'	1034
VI.	Sir Adrian Boult: 'The Busch Brothers'	1036
7.	The Busch Ensembles	1039
	The Busch Quartet	1039
	The Busch/Serkin Duo	1051
	The Busch Trio	1054
	The Busch Chamber Players	1056
8.	The Art of Ensemble Playing, by Adolf Busch	1061
9.	Adolf Busch Discusses Ways of Musical Progress	1068
10.	Colleagues and Contemporaries: Personalalia	1071
11.	Busch on Record: A Complete Discography, with Commentary	1125
12.	Busch the Composer: Commentaries and Worklist	1213
	Select Bibliography	1281
	Index to Discography	1289
	Index of Busch's Compositions	1293
	General Index	1301
	Contents of the CDs	1421

Contents of the Compact Discs

The music on Disc 1 has been chosen to show a few facets of Busch the violinist, in particular his prowess as a player of unaccompanied Bach. It includes two of the finest interpretations by the Busch-Serkin Duo, the Schubert *Fantasy* and the live Reger *Suite im alten Stil*, the latter appearing for the first time. Also receiving its publication premiere is the alternate take of the Dvořák *Slavonic Dance*.

Disc 2 contains some of Busch's compositions, including the performance by the Busch-Serkin Duo of the A minor Violin Sonata. For the piano pieces – including the last music that he composed, the *Andante espressivo* from the day of his death – I am grateful to Peter Serkin (and his father Rudolf in the four-hand Variations). The sound quality on the *Three Études* for orchestra is imperfect but the recording has obvious historical value. The *Seven Spirituals* (the first of which was previously unissued) and *The Star-Spangled Banner* show the genial side of Busch.

Disc 1

BUSCH THE PERFORMER

Schubert: <i>Fantasy</i> in C major, 'Sei mir gegrüsst', D934	21:11
① I. <i>Andante molto</i>	3:29
② II. <i>Allegretto</i>	4:58
③ III. <i>Andantino</i>	7:06
④ IV. <i>Tempo I</i>	5:35
rec. 1931; cf. Vol. 1, p. 455	
Bach: <i>Partita</i> in D minor, BWV1004	23:37
⑤ I. <i>Allemanda</i>	2:38
⑥ II. <i>Corrente</i>	1:29
⑦ III. <i>Sarabanda</i>	3:45
⑧ IV. <i>Giga</i>	1:57
⑨ V. <i>Ciaccona</i>	13:48
rec. 1929; cf. Vol. 1, p. 429	
Bach: <i>Partita</i> in E major, BWV1006	5:55
⑩ I. <i>Preludio</i>	3:15
⑪ III. <i>Gavotte en rondeau</i>	2:40
rec. 1922; cf. Vol. 1, pp. 301–3	
Geminiani (arr. Busch): <i>Sonata</i> in C minor	3:41
⑫ III. <i>Siciliana</i>	
rec. 1942; cf. Vol. 2, p. 1155	

- [13] **Dvořák (arr. Press): Slavonic Dance in G minor, Op. 46, No. 8** 3:25
 rec. 1922; cf. Vol. 1, pp. 301–3, and Vol. 2, p. 1132
- Reger: Suite im alten Stil in F major, Op. 93** 19:08
- [14] I. *Praeludium: Allegro commodo* 4:56
- [15] II. *Largo* 8:20
- [16] III. *Fuge: Allegro con spirito* 5:52
 rec. live, 1940; cf. Vol. 2, p. 715 TT 78:06

Disc 2

BUSCH THE COMPOSER

- Busch: Violin Sonata in A minor, Op. 56** 25:59
- [1] I. *Allegro ma non troppo* 9:59
- [2] II. *Adagio ed espressivo* 5:55
- [3] III. *Molto vivace, quasi presto* 1:57
- [4] IV. *Allegretto amabile* 8:08
 rec. live, 1946; cf. Vol. 2, pp. 801 and 1153
- [5] **Busch: Andante espressivo in C sharp minor for piano, BoO 37** 1:26
 rec. unknown; cf. Vol. 2, p. 888
- [6] **Busch: Variations in B flat minor for piano four hands, Op. 63** 11:05
 rec. live, 1980
- Busch: Three Études for orchestra, Op. 55** 23:05
- [7] I. 'For Intonation': *Lento ed espressivo* 6:51
- [8] II. 'For Precision': *Vivace (ma non troppo presto)* 7:42
- [9] III. 'Change of Tempo and Metre': *Comodo e scherzando* 8:32
 rec. live, 1940; cf. Vol. 2, p. 724
- Busch: Seven Spirituals for chamber orchestra with piano, Op. 58d** 16:23
- [10] 1. 'Po' mourner's'/'Mary an' Martha': *Adagio* 2:29
- [11] 2. 'Mary an' Martha'/'Po' mourner's': *Un poco vivace* 1:17
- [12] 3. 'Git on board'/'We am clim'in': *Allegro commodo* 0:55
- [13] 4. 'We am clim'in'/'Git on board': *Adagio* 2:30
- [14] 5. 'Death's g'wineter'/'Crucifixion': *Molto adagio* 3:12
- [15] 6. 'Crucifixion'/'Death's g'wineter': (without tempo indication) 4:24
- [16] 7. 'Little David play on yo' harp': *Un poco vivace* 1:36
 rec. 1945; cf. Vol. 2, p. 783
- [17] **Smith (arr. Busch): The Star-Spangled Banner** 1:18
 rec. live, 1943; cf. Vol. 2, pp. 763–64

TT 79:57

Adolf Busch (violin and director)

Disc 1: [1]–[4] and [14]–[16] Rudolf Serkin, piano; [12] Artur Balsam, piano; [13] Bruno Seidler-Winkler, piano

Disc 2: [1]–[4] and [6], Rudolf Serkin, piano; [5] and [6], Peter Serkin, piano; [7]–[9], NBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by William Steinberg; [10]–[17] Busch Chamber Players

Disc-to-digital transfers by Roger Beardsley, except Schubert *Fantasy* and Bach D minor Partita (Bryan Crimp) and Reger Suite (Seth Winner). Thanks also to the late Thomas L. Clear and Teri Noel Towe for the Reger.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Volume One: 1891–1939

Adolf Busch, a drawing by Hilda Wiener	19
Otto Grüters	29
Henriette and Wilhelm Busch in about 1890	37
Wilhelm Busch in his workshop	40
The Busch house and shop in Siegen	42
Willi, Adolf, Fritz and Lisbeth Busch in 1898	49
Adolf Busch with his father's dance orchestra	51
Adolf and Fritz Busch as budding musicians in 1902	53
Adolf, Fritz and Wilhelm Busch with Wilhelm Grümmer	55
The Gürzenich Quartet in 1897	65
Fritz Steinbach, the great Brahms conductor of his generation	68
Bram Eldering, teacher of many violinists and quartet leaders	69
Johannes Brahms with friends at Krefeld, 1896	71
Joseph Joachim, a picture inscribed to Busch in June 1906	73
The score of <i>Max und Moritz</i> , by Fritz and Adolf Busch	74
Hugo Grüters Snr	77
Max Reger in his Leipzig apartment in 1910	79
Josef Schumacher, a strong influence on the young Busch	81
Halíř, Joachim, Hausmann and Dohnányi play the Schumann Quartet	83
'Joska' Szigeti in about 1909	96
Adolf Busch shaving Max Reger	111
Ewald Strässer	116
The Gürzenich Quartet during World War I	119
Max Reger with Adolf and Fritz Busch at Bad Pyrmont in 1911	122
Paul Grümmer in 1919	125
Marie Soldat-Roeger	128
Ernest Walker	131
Donald Francis Tovey	133
Marga and Lena Deneke in old age	137

Pablo Casals at home in Paris in 1916	143
Frieda Grüters and Adolf Busch at Les Plans in 1912	148
The Vienna Konzertverein Quartet in 1913	151
Ferdinand Löwe	154
Leonie and Karl Gombrich	156
Dr Bedřich Dlabáč and Adolf Busch at the Musikverein in 1930	158
Edwin Fischer and Adolf Busch	162
Frieda and Adolf Busch on their wedding day	165
Adolf and Frieda Busch making music with Paul Grümmer	167
Arnold Schoenberg	173
Otto Grüters during the First World War	175
The great German operatic soprano Lilli Lehmann	177
Georg Dohrn	184
Busch at Arosa in 1914, with Wolfgang and Käthe Römisch and Frieda	189
Martin Spörr	193
Hermann Abendroth in his Cologne heyday	195
Artur Schnabel and Adolf Busch	196
Karl Panzner, a leading Rhineland musical personality	199
Karl Straube	205
Adolf Busch and Alexander Moissi at Arosa in 1916	208
Adolf Busch in 1916, silhouette by Hans Schliessmann	210
Felix Weingartner	213
Elly Ney and Willem van Hoogstraten in 1916	215
Fritz and Adolf Busch in 1917	218
Imperial Chancellor Theobald von Bethmann Hollweg	220
Busch with his new daughter in 1917	224
Elly Ney and Adolf Busch at the time of their tour	229
Max Fiedler	232
Adolf and Frieda Busch with Irene in Bonn, early 1918	234
Ernst Radecke	235
Adolf Busch in an early recital	237
Adolf and Fritz Busch and Paul Grümmer rehearse the Reger Trio	239
Ferruccio Busoni	248
Julius Röntgen, a central figure in Dutch musical life	253
Georg Göhler, eminent Mahlerian and Regerian	255
The 1919 Busch Quartet, photographed in Berlin	258

Hermann Scherchen when Busch first knew him	260
Hausmusik with Franz von Mendelssohn	263
Arthur Nikisch and Adolf Busch in Berlin in 1920	267
At a Mahler-Feest rehearsal: Frieda Busch, Willem Mengelberg and Adolf Busch	273
Karl Muck	275
Elsa Reger at the centre of participants in the 1920 Regerfest	278
Gösta Andreasson, one of the great quartet second violinists	280
The Busch Quartet in autumn 1920	283
The first famous Busch Quartet line-up, February 1921	285
Rudolf Serkin at about the time he went to live with the Busches	287
The Vienna State Opera wind quintet of the 1920s	296
Adolf Busch and Arturo Toscanini	309
Hermann Suter and Adolf Busch	312
At the Grüters home in Bonn, May 1922	317
Wilhelm and Henriette Busch at Bochum	318
Arnold Rosé in the 1920s	327
Eleonora Duse in her early sixties	331
Adolf Busch and fellow participants at the Munich Mozart Festival	338
At Holzdorf: Otto Krebs, Adolf, Irene, Frieda and Rudi	341
Rudolf Schulz-Dornburg	347
The Busch family at Herman's wedding	350
Carl Schuricht	355
A jam session with Serkin and Doktor	360
The Busch Quartet in a Günter Raphael premiere, Berlin, 1926	366
Wilhelm Schmitz-Scholl; Busch with Elli Schmitz-Scholl and Els Koffler	368
Busch performing at the Würzburg Mozart Festival	371
The Busch Trio in 1926	374
The Busch Quartet with Maxim Gorky, Naples, 1927	380
Members of the 'Zirkus Busch' show off their prowess at Holzdorf	397
Alexander Glazunov and Adolf Busch in Leningrad, 1928	403
Hans Weisbach and Adolf Busch in Düsseldorf	405
Käthe Römisch, Frieda Busch, Wolfgang Römisch and Adolf Busch in Dresden	409
Volkmar Andreae	413

Adolf Busch and Yehudi Menuhin at the Leipzig Gewandhaus	416–17
Fritz Busch, Alfred Reucker and Adolf Busch at Geneva in 1929	428
The 1930 Busch Quartet	441
Herman Busch pictured in Basel in 1930	443
The Busch Quartet and Serkin with Frances Dakyns, Haslemere	448
Mario Rossi	453
The Serkin and Busch house at Riehen	459
Frieda, Adolf and Irene Busch in New York, 1931	462
Irene Busch, Toscanini, Adolf and Frieda returning to Europe	469
Vittorio Gui	490
Bruno Walter	496
Serkin and three of the Quartet on board ship	507
Aubrey Brain	513
Excursion on Lake Maggiore with Toscanini	516
Clemens Krauss	526
Leopold Reichwein	529
Furtwängler and Busch at the old Berlin Philharmonie	535
Carl Ebert and Caspar Neher	539
Willi Busch	544
The young John Barbirolli	552
Oswald Kabasta	555
Ildebrando Pizzetti	557
Claude Hobday	560
Sir Henry Wood	563
Adolf Busch's hands	571
The Busch family and Rudolf Serkin skiing at Arosa	578
Adolf Busch with Irene in Berlin in about 1925	581
Busch with his first grandchild, Ursula Serkin	583
Rudolf Serkin and Adolf Busch at home in the late 1920s	588
Enrico Polo, Adolf Busch, Alberto Passigli and Luigi Ansbacher in Florence, May 1935	611
Rudolf Serkin and Irene Serkin-Busch in 1935	613
The Busch Chamber Players in London, 1935	618
Volkmar Andreae and Adolf Busch	623
Lionel Tertis	625
Busch and Toscanini at Salzburg in 1936	630

Bronisław Huberman	638
Busch rehearsing the Brahms Concerto at the Levant Fair Hall	641
Adolf Busch in Palestine	644
Adolf Busch and Rudolf Serkin in the late 1930s	651
Lukas Fuchs in his later incarnation as Lukas Foss	655
Jelly d'Arányi	657
Busch playing to children	665
Werner Reinhart	674
Adolf Busch and Stefi Geyer at the 1938 Lucerne Festival	682
Busch, Serkin and Toscanini at Lucerne	685
The Busch Quartet and Reginald Kell playing at Lucerne in 1939	699
Busch and Toscanini performing the Beethoven Concerto at Lucerne in 1939	701

Volume Two: 1939–52

Joseph Segal with Ginette Neveu and Ivry Gitlis in 1938	706
Adolf Busch and Rudolf Serkin rehearsing in New York	711
The Busch Quartet in the early 1940s	723
Herman Busch, Arlie Furman, Frances Magnes, Adolf Busch, Gerald Warburg and Elsy Stein	731
Busch rehearsing the Fourth 'Brandenburg' Concerto in 1942	743
Rudolf Serkin pictured in the early 1940s	760
Busch rehearsing the Chamber Players in New York	764
Adolf Busch and Eugene Istomin at a recording session, 1945	771
Karl Krueger	773
Alfred Gallodoro	777
Frances Magnes and Busch at a recording session	782
Busch and Árni Kristjánsson after one of their Reykjavík recitals	786
The second Busch Little Symphony touring party, autumn 1945	790
Ernest Drucker and Adolf Busch	792
The 1946 Busch Quartet	794
Busch exploring the wild scenery of Iceland	800
Busch rehearsing with his Busch Symphony Orchestra late in 1946	803
Adolf Busch with ladies of the Busch Symphony Orchestra	805
Rosalie 'Winnie' Leventritt	807
Toni Booth at Funtington in 1941 with Beatrice and Sidney Webb	811

Ragnar Jónsson and Adolf Busch	819
Adolf and Hedwig Busch on their wedding day	822
The Busch Trio recording the 'Ghost'	826
Ivor ('Jimmy') James	827
The final Busch Quartet formation	831
The Busch house at Guilford, Vermont	834
Adolf Busch and Rudolf Serkin in South America, 1948	837
Adolf Busch with the pianist Eduard Henneberger, 1949	853
Adolf and Hedwig Busch on their visit to Siegen in 1949	855
Adolf Busch with Ottocaro Weiss at Riverdale in June 1950	858
The Moyse Trio at Marlboro	861
The Busch Quartet in Bogotá, 1950	866
Hedwig and Adolf Busch with their sons	868
The reunion of Adolf, Fritz, Willi and Herman Busch in 1951	870
Thomas and Nicholas Busch in London in 1951	873
Adolf Busch and Ljerko Spiller in Buenos Aires, 1951	877
Marcel and Louis Moyse, Serkin, Blanche Honegger, Adolf and Herman Busch, 1951	879
Rudolf Serkin, David Oppenheim and Adolf Busch listening to playbacks	884
The last music Busch composed	889
Rudolf Serkin and Herman Busch playing at the memorial recital	891
Irene Serkin-Busch and Rudolf Serkin	894
Busch cleaning his Stradivarius	896
Busch's way of holding the violin	900
The Busch Tourte bow, c. 1800	905
Rudolf Serkin and Adolf Busch, 1930	922
Busch's 1716 Stradivarius	924
Busch's 1732 'Ex-Wiener' Stradivarius	925
Busch and Serkin playing at the Busch apartment in New York	933
Busch painting at the Weiss family home in Riverdale in 1946	935
Busch studying a score in his New York apartment	951
A Chamber Players concert in New York, with Serkin playing continuo	957
Rudolf Serkin and Adolf Busch in 1941	968
The Busch Quartet in 1930	973
The Busch Quartet playing the Schubert Quintet with Henri Honegger	985

The Strub Quartet in 1935	995
Frederick Grinke	998
Helen Airoff	1000
Frances Magnes	1007
Busch's bow-hold	1010
Charles Treger	1013
Paul Doktor in the 1950s	1017
Busch's first performance of 'Harold in Italy'	1019
Joseph Szigeti	1024
Max Strub	1027
The Chamber Players at Town Hall, New York	1030
Edith Eisler	1032
Yehudi Menuhin and Fritz Busch	1035
Sir Adrian Boult	1037
The Busch Quartet, Vienna, 1925	1041
The Busch Quartet rehearsing in the 1920s	1044–45
Rudolf Serkin and the Busch Quartet en route to America, April 1933	1047
Rudolf Serkin and Adolf Busch in Dummerston, Vermont, 1951	1052
The Busch Trio in Geneva, 1936	1055
Adolf Busch leading his Busch Symphony Orchestra, New York, 1946	1058
Adolf Busch and Rudolf Serkin in the 1930s	1063
The Busch Quartet in 1921	1069
Fred Gaisberg	1145
Adolf Busch and Rudolf Serkin at Liederkrantz Hall, 1947	1153
The Busch Trio recording in Vermont, October 1951	1158
The memorial LP of the Schubert Trio	1159
Columbia Masterworks Records advertisement	1180
Adolf Busch in about 1927	1203
Busch composing at his desk	1217
Donald Francis Tovey, by Maxwell Balfour	1221
A study of Busch composing, by A. H. Pellegrini	1224
<i>Concerto for Large Orchestra</i> , Op. 43, third movement	1236
Busch composing outdoors	1240